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THE PLOTTER

CLACKAMAS COUNTY AREA T/S
USERS GROUP
NEWS LETTER

* * * *

VOLUME 7 * * NUMBER 10

OCTOBER 1989

OCTOBER

1989

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MEETING

The OCTOBER meeting will be:

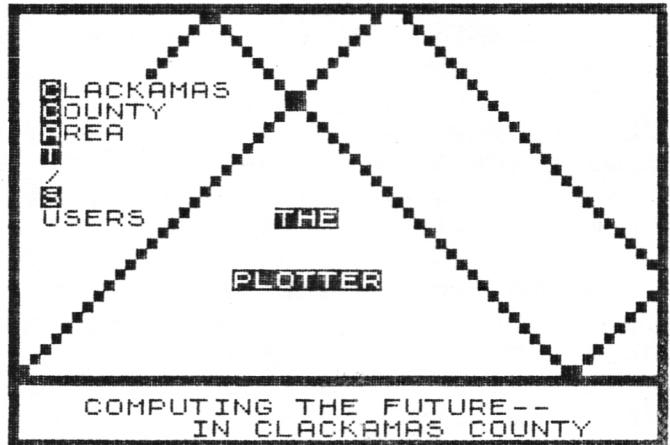
on: FRI., OCTOBER 13, 1989

meeting room open at: 7:00 P.M.
in: COMMUNITY ROOM

FAR WEST FEDERAL S & L
OREGON CITY SHOPPING CENTER

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EDITORIAL

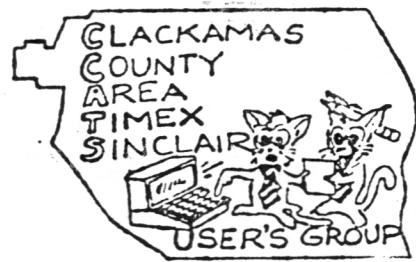
Dick Wagner

No doubt readers peruse the latest in Timex/Sinclair technology and wonder where it will all end. Also to be wondered at is the gigantic improvement in products and the many recently announced hardware and software items now available, and those projected to be on the market.

While there does not seem to be a great demand for all of this among the 2068/QL crowd, it does appear to be sufficient to bring out much of this to the market place. Sales are not brisk but they are at least sufficient to keep some of the remaining suppliers in business.

Readers just cannot expect to obtain much from their computers without adding hardware and software to enhance the enjoyment of its use. The few remaining dealers, software and hardware suppliers more than ever need our support.

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Continued from page 1

A few examples will illustrate my thoughts. RMG ENTERPRISE's new electronic catalog is a survivor of the idea that computers can display sales literature and prices, and do it very well. UP-DATE magazine, the current survivor in the publishing field carries a wealth of information in every issue. Bill Jones also provides many programs published in his magazine, in various formats that will meet the need of almost any storage system.

Hardware items flow from several suppliers, notably disk drives and now even possibly hard drives. Our disk systems are well supplied by Larken with adaptations to permit Olicer and Aerco interfaces to work interchangeably with LKDOS. Users with one of these three systems can communicate with each other.

No doubt the super adaptation is the system that permits our QL computers to use MSDOS language programs (most). A few years ago this was only a dream, as well as the other examples being something that would be nice to have but!!

How fortunate that we wouldn't give up our orphans to invest in some other computer that could also suffer the same fate. For those of us who like to investigate new features and new ideas, availability is a big item. Your dealer and parts supplier warrants your attention. Without them we would really be orphaned.

BITS & BYTES

by: ROD GOWEN

Heard any TS related news lately? Did you get any information in the mail from other users, user groups, or vendors that may be of interest to our readers? If so, why not share it with us? We need all of the help that we can get. Please send any info that you might have to: Rod Gowen, C/O CCAT/S, 1419 1/2 7th Street, Oregon City, OR 97045, or, phone in at: 503/655-7484, NOON - 10 PM weekdays. I know that the entire user group will appreciate it!

SINCLAIR USERS UNITE! ECHO-

is going strong. We now have 4 BBSs on the network. The KINGS MARKET in Denver, The SERIAL PORT in Sterling Heights, Michigan and one run by Greg Popovich in New Jersey As well as The BULL PEN, the home of the Echo here in Oregon. We are hoping to see many more BBSs across the country pick the Echo up off the backbone. What is needed is for YOU, the modem users, to get your tails in gear and call your local BBSs and see if you can get the Sysop (System operator) to carry the Echo. Offer him a few bucks a month for the little extra phone time it would cost to get the Echo online. AND, MOST IMPORTANTLY!- if he does get it for you USE IT!! Remember, you cannot

blame others if you do not do your part!

MOUNTAINEER SOFTWARE-

RMG Enterprises has announced that they are going to bring you the ICON and FONT libraries that were formerly available from Lemke s/w. These products will also be available from Mountaineer S/W as well. For more info, write or call RMG.

NO NEWS DEPARTMENT-

That is what we are going to call it when we have not heard from some of the fronts that we had expected to hear from by now. The two main items of interest in this months column are the fact that ZEBRA SYSTEMS and WMJ DATA SYSTEMS have not been too anxious to let folks know if or when the products formerly sold by Zebra and Knighted Computers will be available to those of you who may still want to purchase some of their fine line of products. Zebra had more or less promised the rights to product their s/w to RMG and Knighted was reportedly dealing with WMJ for the rights to their s/w. We will keep you posted as we see any improvement on these fronts.

LARKEN ELECTRONICS-

We recently spoke to Larry Kenny of Larken Electronics and he told us that he would be back to work on TS products in mid-October. Two main s/w projects waiting his return are: A TASWORD/MSCRIP SPELLING CHECKER and A DESK TOP PUBLISHING PACKAGE FOR LKDOS. We will let you all know when any of these items become available. They will, of course, be for sale by Larken, RMG and Ed Grey.

Continued from page 2
Some other things that Larry is looking at are a bus connector converter to allow the use of IBM PC add-on cards. Sound exciting? Well, let him know you would like to see it and you may get your wish.

TIME DESIGNS MAGAZINE-

is now silent, for the most part. The phones have been disconnected and mail is slower than the proverbial "snail". We did hear from Bill Ferrebee, of Mountaineer S/W, that, after waiting for over 5 months, he had finally received confirmation from Tim Woods that he (Tim) had received a REGISTERED/CERTIFIED package that Bill had sent in April. Tim also sent a sample of the "new look" of TDM. It seems that IF we do see another issue, we will only be seeing a "shadow" of the former glory of the magazine. He will be publishing on 8.5x14" legal paper and folding it. This will make the magazine only 8.5x7". AND only 20-30 pages is what we are hearing as a page count. We will see!

That'll do it for this time!-

Take care 'till next time!

LARKEN LINES

by: ROD GOWEN

Glad to see you here again! Summer is over and you are most likely all glad to be back at your computers. NO?!? Well, we hope so! Larry Kenny tells us that he will be back at his soon. More new things for us, we hope! (See the note in the BITS & BYTES column, this n/l)

This month I am going to give you a short set of instructions for the fine little utility that Larry Kenny and Jack Dohany co-wrote, but did not furnish any documentation for. I hope that these will help some of my readers get a bit more from this program.

DISK MANAGER

=====

To LOAD: simply RANDOMIZE USR 100: LOAD "DSKMAN.B1"

It comes up running. It will automatically do a "CAT" of this disk or whatever disk is in the drive that you run it from.

At this point, you will see a listing of the files and you will see an information line as well as a menu of functions at the bottom of the screen.

The first item is "cat:@-3(@)". This tells you that you are looking at a catalog of drive (@). To CATALOG a new drive, just press a number (@-3), (@-4 if you have ramdisk), and you will then be prompted to enter a "filter". That is, if you only wish to see basic files, you could enter ".B^" and only basic files would be shown on the screen. Play with this, you will soon get the hang of it.

The next item is "cursor:5-8". This tells you that you can use the 5/6/7/8 keys to move the highlighter bar around the screen with complete wrap-around. NO NEED TO USE SHIFT KEYS! Just press the number for the direction you wish to move.

At the right of this line is "mark:X/I". This tells you that you can use one of these two keys to mark items. If you press the "X" key you will see an "X" in inverse video appear to the left of the item that is currently highlighted. If you press the "I" key, you will see the "X" appear to the left of EVERY item on the screen! (NOTE: One small exception to this: if there is an AUTOSTART on the disk, the auto marking will stop as soon as it hits it! I do not know why, but I assume that this is a "bug" and no one has yet fixed it. You can manually mark all other items on the screen and they will be acted upon.) If you press the "I" again, all of the marks will be removed. Or, if you press "X" while on a marked item, the mark will be removed.

FUNCTIONS:

On the lower line of the screen, you will see the functions of DISK MANAGER.

First is the RENAME function. This is just as it sounds. If you wish to RENAME an item, just highlight it and press "R" and you will be prompted to enter the information needed to give the file a new or changed name.

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Continued from page 3

The ERASE function is much the same. Just highlight the item(s) that you wish to ERASE or delete from the disk and press the "E" key. You will have a chance to change your mind on almost all or these functions. The prompt will give you a "Y/N" option. If you accidentally erase a file and would like to get it back, you will have to use one of the other available file recovery program. Some of these will be appearing in future issues of RMG CATALOG UPDATES.

The MOVE function is just that; it will allow you to MOVE one or more files from one drive to another or to the same drive. If yo are using a single drive system, you can copy a file or an entire disk as long as you do not mind swapping disks a few times. When you press "M" you will be asked to tell the computer what drive you want to move the file(s) to. Then it will display the settings and ask if you wish to continue.

The BACKUP function is a bit deceiving. It is actually just a SAVE routine for the DISK MANAGER program itself. All you need to do is to CAT the drive you want ot copy or save the program to and then press "B".

Finally, you have the QUIT function. Not much I can tell you here! If you press "Q", you will see a STOP error line appear at the bottom of the screen and you will be in basic.

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

After much experimentation and trial and error, I have found a couple of nice things to know about this program. I want to pass these notes on to you so that you will not have to do as I did. These are small but critical items to the operation of this program.

I have many disks that have a LOT more files than would fit on one screen full of 2 columns and was rather put out that there did not seem to be any way that I could access and work with any but the last 30 or so files on a disk. I saw "scroll?" appear at the bottom of the screen and upon pressing ANY key, I saw the filenames scrolling by and I was presented with the menu ONLY when it reached the last of the files on the disk catalog. WELL: it was really very

simple: SIMPLY PRESS THE "BREAK" KEY! BUT BE CAREFULL! PRESS << ONLY >> THE BREAK KEY AND NO OTHER KEY OR IT WILL CONTINUE TO SCROLL! As soon as you press BREAK, you will be presented with the menu at the bottom of the screen. If you finish working with the files on-screen, you simply press the number of the drive that you are working with and re-CATALOG the disk, press ENTER to get past the first screen full and THEN press BREAK again to work with the next screen. You just continue to do this until you are finished with that disk. I have a couple of Quad disks with over 140 files and it works fine on them.

As you can see, there are three files connected with this program. They are DSKMAN.B1, Move .C1 and cat.CR. If you use the built-in BACKUP, you will automatically save all three parts. Otherwise, you must be sure to copy all three parts to the disk you are going to use.

If you want to add this program to a set of utilities on your boot disk or utility disk, you can modify line 76 to send you back to your main menu by simply taking out the STOP command and replacing it with: RANDOMIZE USR 100: GO TO d:RANDOMIZE USR 100: NEW to go back to your original menu, provided it is an AUTOSTART. If it is not, you can use: RANDOMIZE USR 100: GO TO d: RANDOMIZE USR 100: LOAD "MENU.B1". The "d" is the drive # you wish to use.

IN CONLUSION:

I hope that you get a lot out of our little endeavor. Please feel free to call or write regarding this publication or any of the products/materials listed herein. We would be glad to hear from you.

If you wish to print these pages, you can do so. Simply use your version of the MC for Tasword (unless you have an A&J printer i/f, in which case you can do it with this version) and load and print whichever pages you wish. We have set up the pages to run as close as possible to 66 lines as possible.

Got a short Larken related program or modification that you have written? Why not send it in for publication? I am sue that you would be helping a lot of folks.

CHANGING TASWORD II HELP PAGE

Dick F. Wagner

Periodically questions come up on problems with using the Tasword II word processor. These have been addressed in the past when the program was "new". A recent problem from one of our members was that the Expanded mode didn't work on the large printer. As it turned out, the codes for expanded mode were 14 for ON and 15 for OFF. BUT, these codes are for 1 line printing which is OK for headings. This means that the code must be on the line to be expanded (double width) and not on the line above. A more universal code is 27,87,1 for on and 27,87,0 for off but the OFF code must be added at the end of the expanded line.

This Tasword II program had been reworked in the past (a used edition) and the main "HELP" page had been revised to some extent. Now the owner would like to put the page back to its original format, but how to do it? Here are the steps for the original Tasword II program--

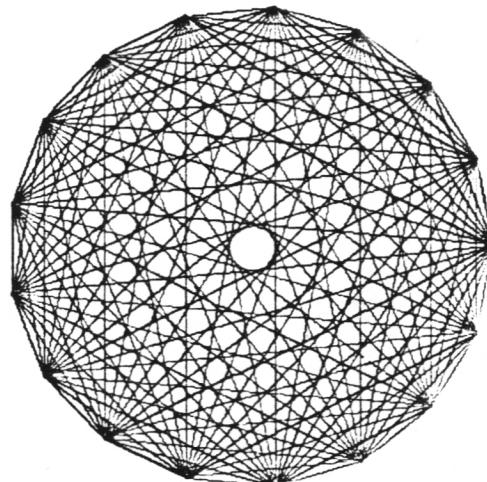
1. LOAD TASWORD II check CAT for form).
2. After the working page is displayed, use STOP to select BASIC.
3. Edit line 15 by adding after the LOAD"----"CODE the address and number of bytes, 54784,10751. Check this in line 710 for correctness.
4. Rewind the tape if cassette. RUN the program with this revision. Use STOP for the menu and select "load text file" (j). On "name", input "tasword".
5. Edit the "HELP" page as normal text, moving the cursor and making the changes desired. One suggestion is to add "CS" (CAP SHIFT) above the left set of graphics. Also change the printer to the model in use, besides any mode names. Remember, the modes must correspond to the codes and graphic symbols assigned on the printer codes screen. If you get lost, just use the EDIT key to bring up the main "HELP" page.

6. Use a fresh tape/disk and use "STOP" to return to the menu. Now choose "save text file" (s). Again name it "tasword".
7. This time go into BASIC with "b" and GO TO 15 and reload the new text file
8. The revised "HELP" page should come up on EDIT. Check it out to see if all of the revisions are as you want them. If OK then LIST 15 and delete the added address and bytes. Now make a final save for the finished copy.

This all seems rather complicated but it falls into place if followed exactly.

Readers of Time Designs will find another method in VOL. 3, NO. 2, pages 26-29. The actual program is lines 4000-5080. Bill Ferrebee has made a major change in Tasword II that includes this subroutine. I checked his program against the original and marked each line that was different. Then I made the necessary revisions/additions. His method is of changing the "HELP" page is "self contained" but is slow. This is the reason for the flashing "WORKING" sign, just wait until it stops. After all, it takes time to make 1537 loops. Actually it is faster than the method given at first.

Note: Thanks to Norm Lehfeldt in TIMELINEZ of unknown date for the procedure for revising the "HELP" page.



GEOMETRIC DESIGN

```

5 REM "kenopick"
6 REM COMPILED BY STEVE
    SAWCHUCK JR. TSUG of L.V.
    4/19/88
8 REM from THE HACKER July,
1988
10 REM change the appropriate
lines for LOTTERY choices.
30 CLS : CLEAR : PRINT
40 PRINT TAB 4;"TIMEX PICKS NU
MBERS FOR"
50 PRINT
60 PRINT : PRINT TAB 4;""
*VEGAS KENO* "
80 PRINT : PRINT TAB 6;" 1 SE
T OF NUMBERS"
100 PRINT : PRINT TAB 8;" BETWE
EN 1 & 80"
140 PRINT : PRINT : INPUT "HOW
MANY NUMBERS DO YOU WANT?
(4,5,6,7, or 8)";N
160 PRINT : IF N=0 THEN STOP :
IF N<4 OR N>8 THEN GO TO 310
180 IF N=4 THEN GO TO 230
190 IF N=5 THEN GO TO 240
200 IF N=6 THEN GO TO 250
210 IF N=7 THEN GO TO 260
220 IF N=8 THEN GO TO 270
230 FOR I=1 TO 5: RANDOMIZE : F
OR X=1 TO 4: PRINT INT (RND*80)+
1;" ";: NEXT X: PRINT : PRINT :
GO TO 275
240 FOR I=1 TO 5: RANDOMIZE : F
OR X=1 TO 5: PRINT INT (RND*80)+
1;" ";: NEXT X: PRINT : PRINT :
GO TO 275
250 FOR I=1 TO 5: RANDOMIZE : F
OR X=1 TO 6: PRINT INT (RND*80)+
1;" ";: NEXT X: PRINT : PRINT :
GO TO 275
260 FOR I=1 TO 5: RANDOMIZE : F
OR X=1 TO 7: PRINT INT (RND*80)+
1;" ";: NEXT X: PRINT : PRINT :
GO TO 275
270 FOR I=1 TO 5: RANDOMIZE : F
OR X=1 TO 8: PRINT INT (RND*80)+
1;" ";: NEXT X: PRINT : PRINT :
GO TO 275
275 PRINT TAB 1;"PRESS C TO COP
Y           OR S TO STOP
           OR ANY OTHER K
EYS TO CONTINUE"
276 INPUT Y$
278 IF Y$="C" OR Y$="c" THEN CO
PY
280 IF Y$="S" OR Y$="s" THEN ST
OP
320 GO TO 140: PRINT : PRINT :
GO TO 140

```

**PROGRAM FURNISHED BY
OUR MEMBER JACK ARMSTRON**
*Note: try it by pressing
RUN twice!*

TIMEX SINCLAIR 2068 COMPUTER

---sample fonts---

```
RaBbCcDdEeFfGgHhIiJjKkLlMmNnOoPp
QqRrSsTtUuVvWwXxYyZz1234567890.,
*/?E:@;) ('&X#$@!.....Now is the
time for all good men to come to
the aid of their country!
```

Press any key key to repeat

20>REM by F. Bouldin & Ben Jac
kson (7-12-85)

30 REM Near beginning of your
program before any print state-
ments add statement "GO SUB 9000"
then add subroutine below (line
s 9000-9530).

40 REM Example:

```
42 REM
45 GO SUB 9000
50 PRINT AT 10,2;"TIMEX SINCLA
IR 2068 COMPUTER";AT 12,6;"--sa
mple fonts---";AT 14,0;"RaBbCcDd
EeFfGgHhIiJjKkLlMmNnOoPpQqRrSsTt
UuVvWwXxYyZz1234567890.,*/?E:@;) ('&X#$@!.....Now is the time fo
r all good men to come to the ai
d of their country!"
```

55 REM note required statement

"GO SUB 9040" in line 60 for th
is example.

60 PRINT FLASH 1;AT 10,2;AT 21
,2;"Press any key key to repeat
": PAUSE 0: CLS : GO SUB 9040: G
O TO 50

7000 REM

8000 REM

9000 REM "BOLD" character subrou
tine

9010 REM machine code routine

9020 RESTORE 9500: FOR I=63900 T
O 63979: READ A: POKE I,A: NEXT
I

9030 RANDOMIZE USR 63900

9040 PRINT AT 11,0;"***BOLD***char
acters desired?..Y/N"

9050 IF INKEY\$="Y" OR INKEY\$="y"
THEN POKE 23607,250: CLS : RETU
RN

9060 IF INKEY\$="N" OR INKEY\$="n"
THEN POKE 23607,60: CLS : RETUR
N

9070 GO TO 9050

9080 REM

9500 DATA 42,54,92,17,0,250,1,0,
4,126,18,230,3,32,4,126,203,207
9510 DATA 18,126,230,7,32,4,126,
203,215,18,126,230,15,32,4,126

9515 REM

9520 DATA 203,223,18,126,230,31,
32,4,126,203,231,18,126,230,63,3
2,4,126,203,239,18,126,254,66,32
9525 REM

9530 DATA 4,126,203,239,18,126,2
54,0,32,3,62,0,18,19,35,11,120,1
77,32,186,201

9535 REM

9990 STOP

9995 CLEAR : RANDOMIZE USR 100:
SAVE "bold1.B1" LINE 10

DEAD KEY ROW

Dick F. Wagner

For several days the "A" to "G" part of the 2068 keyboard was inactive except that sometimes a sharp rap on the case would get it going again. This seemed to indicate a poor connection, or an intermittent connection in the keyboard. Other circuit parts could be a keyboard diode or even the Z 80 processor.

To eliminate a couple of possibilities, the keyboard was replaced with a spare and the Z 80A CPU was replaced. Still dead! The set of 8 diodes were next checked with a good ohm meter set on the highest scale of 20 megohms. Checking both directions thru the diodes (reversing test leads) all checked OK except the diode tied to the "A" to "G" keys which tested open. A good small signal diode will test about 3-6 megohms in one direction and well over 20 megohms in the other direction.

The diode was replaced with one testing about the same as the good ones. It was possible to do the unsoldering from the component side and excess solder was removed from the 2 holes with a soldering wick. As soon as I started to unsolder the diode it separated in the middle of the glass case. I wonder how long the glass had been fractured? To do a good job of soldering the circuit board was removed from the case so the soldering could be done on the trace side.

This repaired the bad keys and after replacing the keyboard all is back in good shape.



OCTOBER MEETING THE 13th--GOOD LUCK

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

This issue is mainly a Gowen/Wagner effort (thanks, Jack for the program) so readers know the result of that. More INPUT, PLEASE!

The graphics on pages 5 and 7 were made with a Commodore 1520 Printer/Plotter connected to my 2068 with a special serial board obtained from Bob Mitchell. The circuit board plugs into a slot in the Olinger mother board. The elephant is a screen dump by Bob's program. Text for titles can be added. The geometric graphic is from the printer/plotter manual with adaptation by Bob. I will have a product report on this equipment one of these days.

It is too bad that Rod had to develop the user information on the LKDOS Disk Manager. It is surprising as Jack Dohany produces some very good manuals for his products. This is a program that does a good job.

The next issue should carry a product review of RMG ENTERPRISE's new electronic catalog. It is a nice idea that has been tried in the past, but was doomed to failure because of the lack of a "universal" storage medium faster than a cassette. The availability of the LKDOS useable with Aerco and Olinger disk interfaces gives three systems that Rod can access with a single disk format. The provision for monthly updates to a master annual catalog is a thoughtful approach to getting information to the user. The cost is minimal, too. For \$3.00 you get the master catalog with a \$3.00 credit. Buy the UPDATES for \$12.00 more and get a total credit of \$6.00. Plus, after the catalog/UPDATES are out of date, you have a dozen disks to use!

I received a copy of Bill Jones' new release, Daisy.B6, plus an updated VU CALC program. Daisy.B6 is a vastly enlarged system based on his earlier Smart Text program plus MANY additions. It is obvious that this is not a "sit down and use right

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—NOTICE—

Continued from page 7

off" system as it is so large. As Bill states in his large manual, it takes a lot of using, reading, and stirring the gray matter to digest it all. I never got very friendly with the earlier Smart Text as I was spoilt with Dohany's improvements with MSCRIPT. Maybe I can do better this time.

I thought the CCAT/S logo would be ready to use by this issue but I guess it got put aside what with lots of new stuff to play with plus a vacation. I also started the Timex Sinclair logo like that on top of the 2068 computer. There have been some graphics for screen dumps for this logo but the result is not a duplicate of the original by a long way. I think I can do better with a programmed printer program.



Opinions expressed in articles are not necessarily those of members of the Clackamas County T/S User Group. Meeting minutes carry the consensus of members present at meeting. This newsletter nor staff will not be held liable for any damage or consequences due to following instructions, or review of products as contained in this newsletter.

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—8—

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VASHON, WA 98070